

THE RETURN OF A PRIVATE.

[illegible][illegible]

pay to day, other soldiers slowly percolated in blue streams back into the State and county, but still her private did not return. "I don't know," she said, "but I think he was coming, and she had watched the road so long that it had become unconscious. As she stood at the well or by the kitchen door, but she was fixed unthinkingly on the road that wound down the coule. Nothing wears on the human so much as waiting. The day after the morning searching the sunbrigt seas, could on give up hope of a ship, that horrible grating on his brain would cease. It was that kind of thing, but she was fixed on the road that gave Emma Smith no rest.

"Neighbors said, with kind intention 'You may hear from him, but you can't expect just yet. He'll come along one of the days.'

"By 'don't he write?' was her question when she asked him. All this Sunday morning it seemed to her as if she could stand any longer. The house seemed intolerably lonely. So she dressed the little girls in their best dresses and some made jackets, and, closing up the house set off down the coule to old Mother Gray's. She was a widow woman, and the wife of the cooly." She was a widow woman with a large family of stalwart boys and laughing girls. She was the village doctor, but she was not a doctor, and poverty, with Western open-heartedness she fed every month that asked food of her and worked herself to death as cheerfully as she had danced in the neighborhood harvest dances.

"She waddled down the path to meet Mr. Smith, and she was a good deal older. She had made the countenance of a convict expand.

"'Oh, you little dears! Come right to your grand old granny, and I'll dress 'em right.' Mrs. Smith. How are ye, anyway? No mornin', ain't it? Come in an' set down Everything's in a clutter, but that won't matter."

"She led the way into the "best room," sunny, square room, carpeted with a faded blue and white check. On the wall hung a horrible white-and-green-stripped wall paper, where a few ghastly effigies of dem members of the family hung in various attitudes of contortions. The room was sounded with singing, laughter, whistling, tramping of boots and scufflings. Half a dozen of the children were running round their fingers at the children, who ran on and were soon heard in the midst of the feed.

"'Don't 'pose you've heard from Ed?'" Mrs. Smith asked, and she looked at him some day, when you ain't lookin' for 'n. The good old soul had said that so many times that poor Mrs. Smith derived no comfort from it.

"'Liz heard from Al the other day. He's comin' some day this week. Anyhow, the ex-

"'Did he say anything?'"

"'No, he didn't.'" Mrs. Gray admitted. "But then, it was only a short letter, and he didn't say much. I'll tell you what. But come out and see my new cheese. I tell ye, I don't believe I ever had better luck in my life. If Ed should come I was goin' to take him up a piece of the cheese."

"It was beyond human nature to resist the influence of a good berry head. Mrs. Smith shook her head. Bill, with a dexterity striking in such a great giant, rolled a quid in his mouth, and said:

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back of his hand, one cutting a
of hair from his temple, and one
through the calf of his leg. The
to the child, who had been
being the soldier's widow. Her wa-
longer seemed hard. This sweet, lo-
cal, was the mother of the child.

Then they rose, and went out to
garden and down to the barn. Be-
side her while she milked old Spot.
The child, who had been so long
Here was the epic figure which W.
has in mind, and which he calls the
mon American soldier." With this
of the child, the man who had
his future, his thoughts hinged on
battle. Clean, clear-headed, in the
of his mind, he was a man who
turned futreward with a sublime in-
sight.

His farm was mortgaged, a rascal had
run away with his machinery, the
of his wife had been sold for clothing, the years were coming upon
he was sick and emaciated; but his
son did not quail. With the same
will that he had shown when he
entered upon a still more male
future.

Oh, that mystic hour! The pale moon
was standing there by the well,
his young wife by his side. The va-
ring above the eastern peaks, the
of white light and shadow, the
jangling bells, the crickets singing,
blooming out sweet, and fair, and
the katy-dids rhythmically calling,
all seemed to cry to the child to
stand to roost in the poplar tree near
gate. The voices at the well drop
to the child, and he is in their
at last, and the child is a soldier.

The common soldier of the Ameri-
cans had returned. His wife was
in the arms of the child, and he
running fight with nature and again
injustice of his fellow-men was begun.
In the dusk of that far off valley his
father had his first battle. He
away, he rises into a magnificent
youth.

He is a gray-haired man of sixty or
more, with a beard and a mustache,
also showing. They are fighting
less battle, and must fight till God
them furlough.

—HAMILA GARRET, at December 1900.

BITS OF FASHION

Blue-gray and leather-color are
combined in visiting dresses of be-
sleeved, high waisted, and short
sleeved.

In many of the new elegant dresses
the wrap and the sleeves are of
entirely different materials.

Russian cloaks, princess dresses
with long tails and high collars, are
fashioned from the new Lyons velvets.

A very elegant effect is produced
black cloth suits by the use of delicate
puffs, which are applied upon the
cuffs and the coat.

A new trimming which promises
to come immensely popular with society
is of light fluting cloth, which is
net having a narrow border in blue
color upon one or both edges. This
very fall is extremely pretty.

For the coming season's coats
the most fashionable of the new
smartest French tailor models
greatly lengthened. All the styling
is of light fluting cloth, which is
border in width, but ample enough
over a dress sleeve without enor-
mity. The popular trimmings for cloth
are of light fluting cloth, which is
in points, bands and tufts, and very
aplique figures and arabesque in
Russian effects.

A very good contrivance for keeping
arms and hands cold, day after day,
longer than a shoulder-cape is, is
simulated sleeve of cloth, knit or
of fur, which is put on the inside
inside, to the elbow, the top and
the peluse and buff, or often cor-
sleeves, which are made of fur, and
are also trim-fitting fur cuffs,
which the hands slip, leaving the
part of the arm free. The longest coat
of fur, which is made of fur, and
are made much less expensive if the
adds the fur bands herself, after the
style of the Russian.

A new feature of the house-
wifery is the finishing of the new
long-necked women extra length
drawn, and this is used to form
the neck, and the neck is drawn
down by a series of runners to the
ference of the neck, and the neck
of the neck, and the neck is drawn
down by a series of runners to the
silk, blouses, and done frequently
blouse. Women with short necks
turn out considerably longer than
the neck, and the neck is drawn
down by a series of runners to the
being turned over to form a falling
or frill. The material is gathered
circumference of the neck, and a
small ring is attached to the neck
band.

The necks of some of the dress
early English style are finished with
a wide band of ribbon, which is
folded and tied with narrow ribbon
ruffs are used in all colors, as
black. On gowns for formal dinner
the neck is finished with a wide
back of the neck and pointed in
in front. Pierrot collars of cos-
tume are also used, and the neck
toilettes of every description, and
tinted cravats of silk lisse, and
tinted, are worn with supper jackets,
and the neck is finished with a
Donble jabots of lace are very
throat, and taper to a point be-
waist-line.

The productions of the loom
the expensive Persian of lamb-skin
expert alone could tell the difference
krimmer and black astrakhan are
of the same value, but the differ-
trimmings being displayed. These
imitations in soft silk
really to better taste than the host
of the same value, but the differ-
cently dyed to imitate more expensive
for instance, "blue fox," which is
song. Genuine blue fox is used
to the neck, and the neck is drawn
walk abroad in the dreadful imi-
"blue fox"—a dyed fur and a dyed
of the same value, but the differ-
called, blue fox is not blue at all,
because it isn't, "a wise fur
explained. Few people know the
of the same value, but the differ-
actual value, and it is neither as
set its price, when given, is in
prevalence of ejaculations.

Longevity and Country Life

President C. W. Eliot, in the Forum.

How great the difference is between
urban and a rural population in the
of life who die, may be conveniently
Massachusetts, which have now been
lished for forty-seven years. In the
of the country, the average age of
the persons who died in Suffolk
county on the sea-board, was thirty-
two and a half years; the average
of the country, was thirty-three and
a rural county on the same sea-board
thirty-seven, in Franklin, an inland
county, thirty-eight and a half; and
of the country, all the country, was
the island county of Nantucket dur-
thirty years was very nearly dou-
bled, and the average age of the
46.15. The same reports show that the
death rate is uniformly higher than
densely-populated counties than in
of the country, the average age of
sparse density of population count-
produces these striking results; but
fact remains that a family which
of the country, the average age of
finnances than one that lives in a
Moreover, if the family history
of the country, the average age of
ness and the professions in any A
city, be studied, it will usually be
that a very large propo- of the
of the country, the average age of
a vigor and an endurance which in
run outwigh all city advantages
of the country, the average age of
strip all their competitors.

Something Better than a Dowry

Dowry is an antiquated provi-
dence, and is not at all com-
patible with the dignity of A
and the intelligence and freedom
of America. We are now living
likely to be two, three, four or more
terate means save for all of the
of the country, the average age of
father who gives his children a
sensible mother, who provides them
comfortable home, and who edu-
cates them, and who gives them
the cunning in their ten fingers, do
daughters far better than if he giv-
them a dowry. The dowry is a
vision that neither a bad husband
evil fate can squander. Her hus-
band, full duty, and even good girl
and even good girl.

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